Robert Davidson Big Decisions the Whitlam Dismissal

for wind quartet with recorded speech

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Instrumentation

Oboe Clarinet in Bb/A Horn in F Bassoon CD recording of archival radio broadcasts

Commissioned by the Southern Cross Soloists

Performance Directions

The CD contains recordings of speeches by some of the main players in one of Australia's most dramatic political events of the 20th century - the Governor General's dismissal of the government led by Gough Whitlam. Most of the speeches were recorded on the day of the event (11 November 1975).

These speeches are treated as melodies, as notated in the score, so that, when accompanied appropriately, the politicians sound as if they are singing. A miniature opera takes place.

In order to stay in time with the speech, there are two possibilities:

- 1. Each performer uses small earphones to listen to a click track (included on the left channel) while playing, or
- 2. The performance can use a version of the audio that includes percussive sounds heard by both audience and performers.

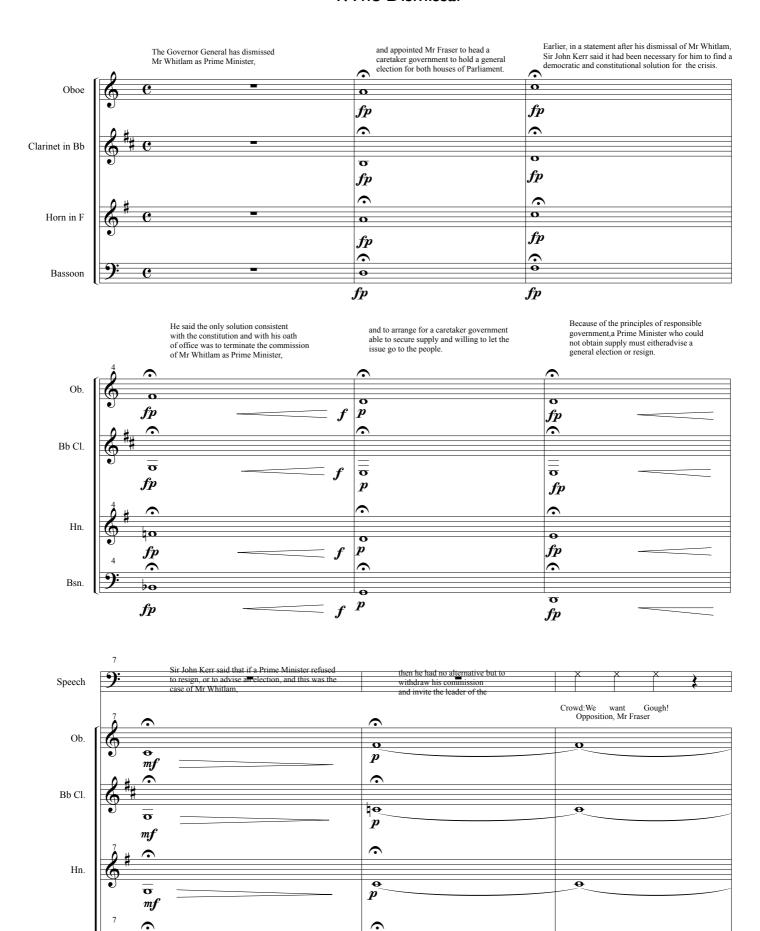
When doubling the speech, instrumentalists should imitate the articulation and dynamic properties of the speaker's prosodic patterns.

Great care must be taken in sound balance. The CD should be at a level so that every word is clear, but not so loud as to obscure or dull the live instruments; also the performers must be able to clearly hear the CD in order to perform in time. The ensemble should be amplified to ensure a clear blend with the recording.

Experience has shown that placing loudspeakers amongst the musicians (so that the sound emanates from within the ensemble) is very effective in achieving these requirements.

Big Decisions

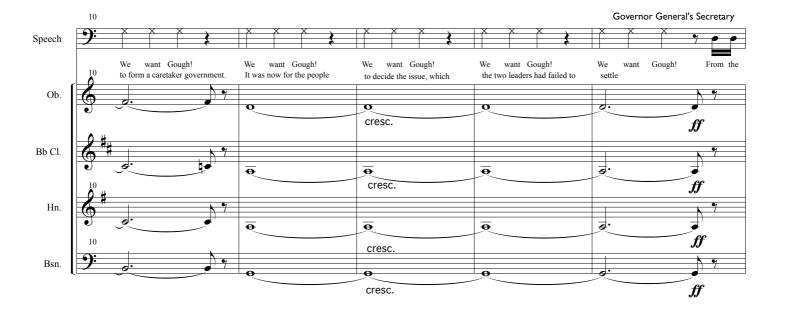
1. The Dismissal



p

Bsn.

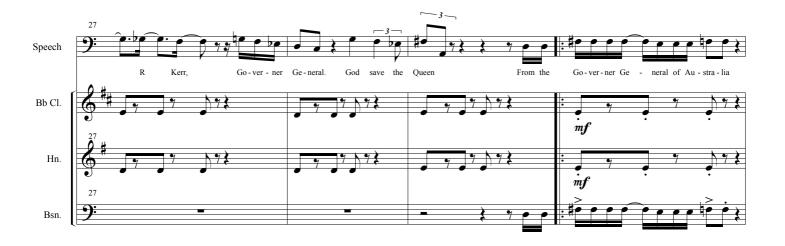
mf





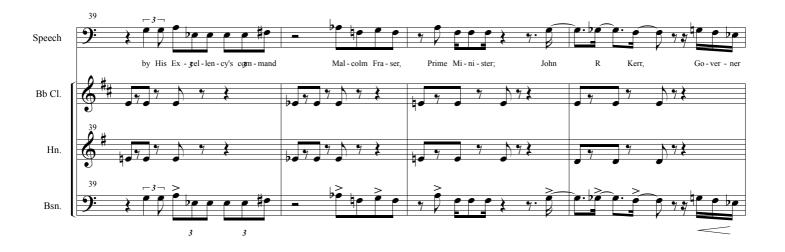




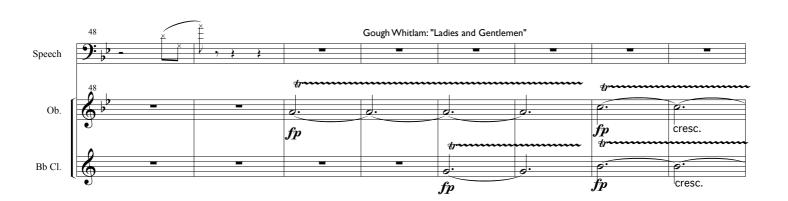






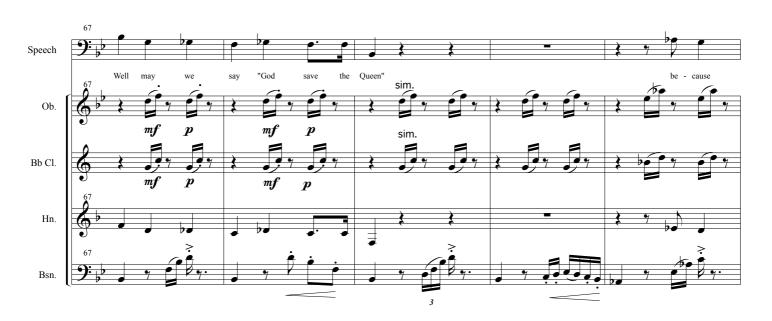






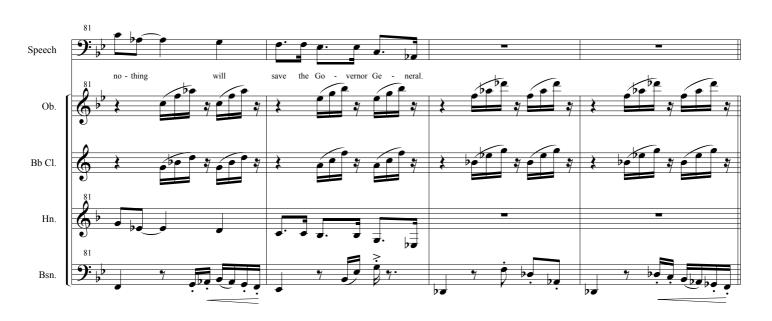














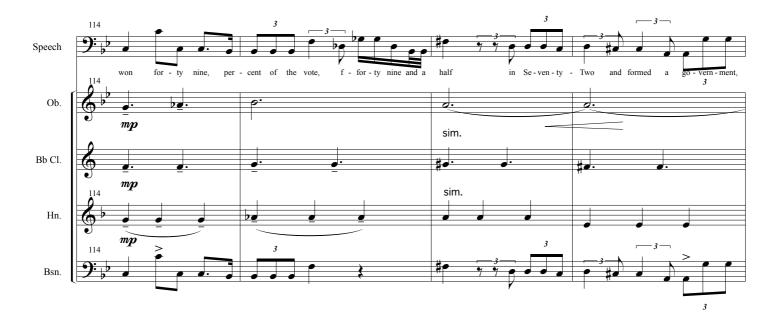


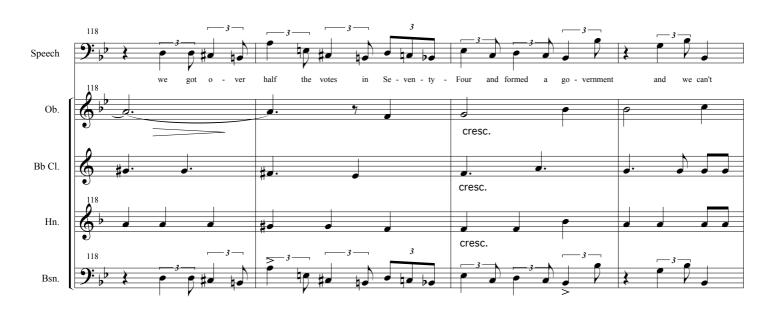


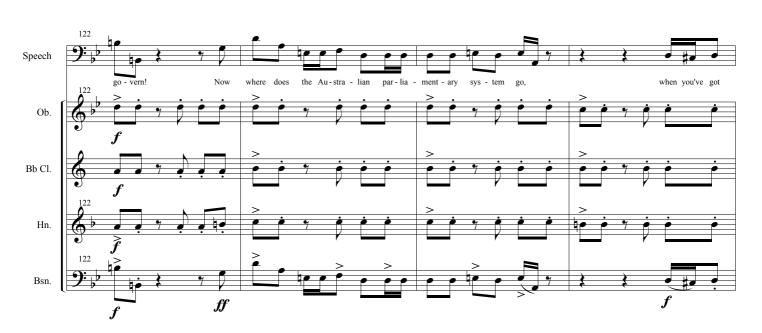


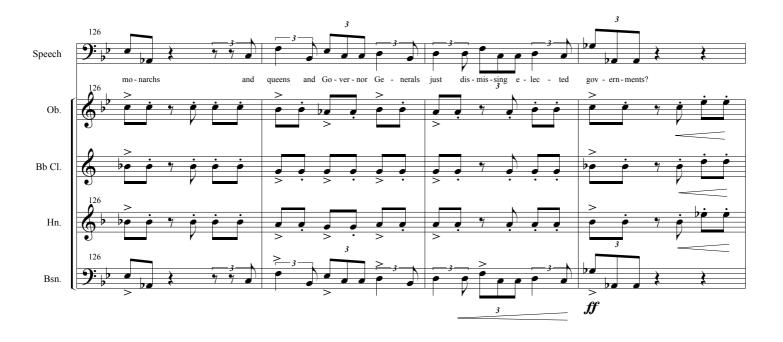


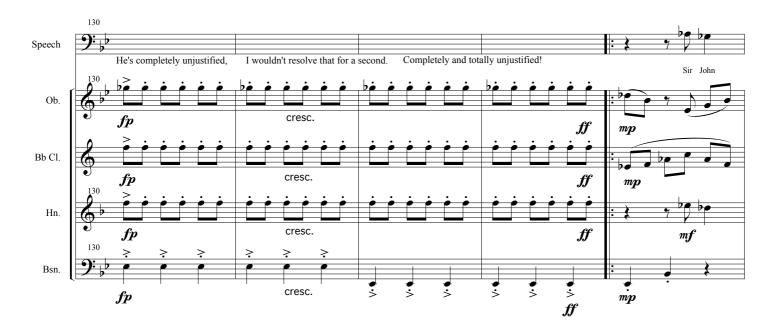




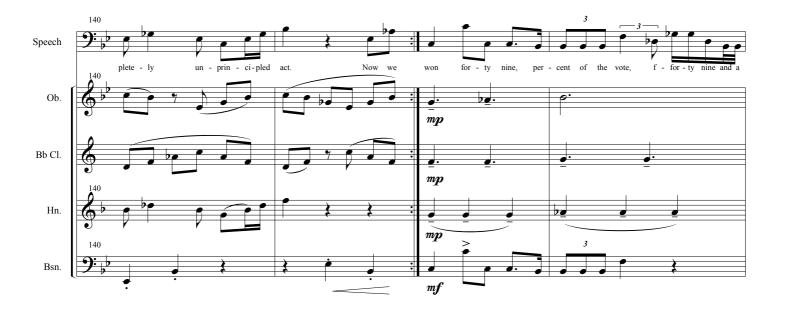






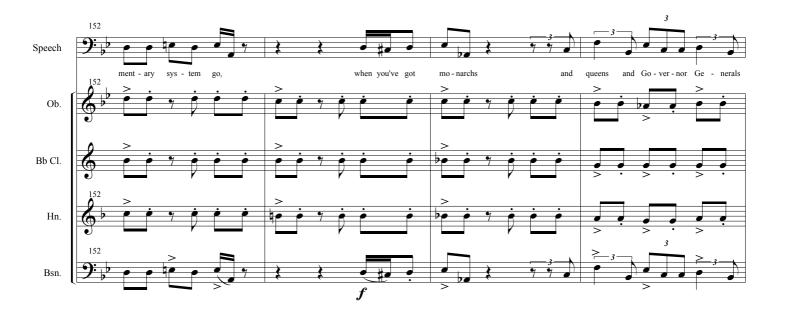






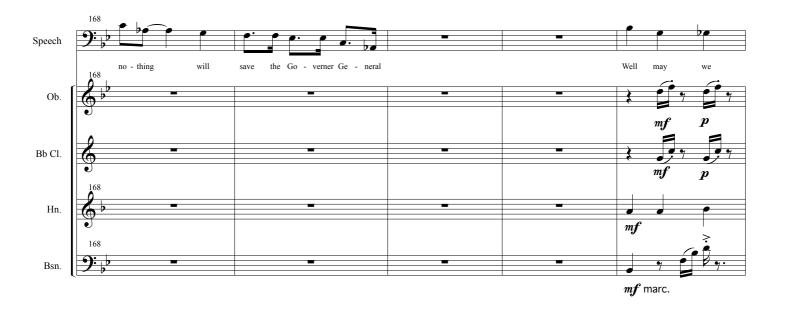






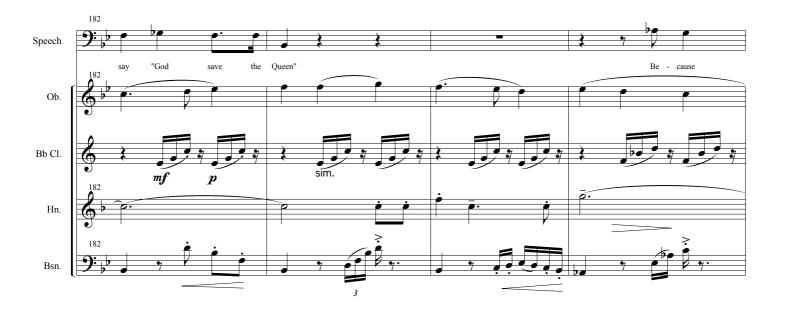






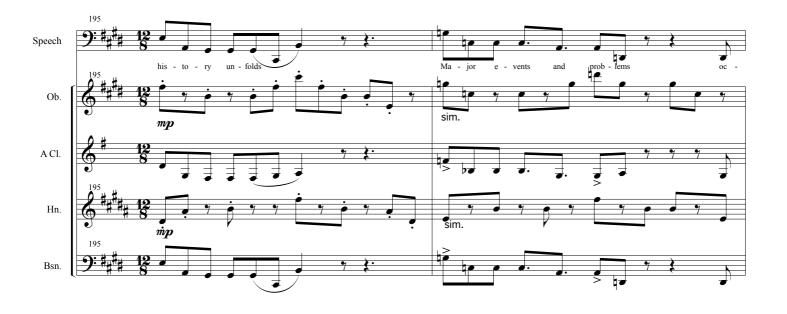






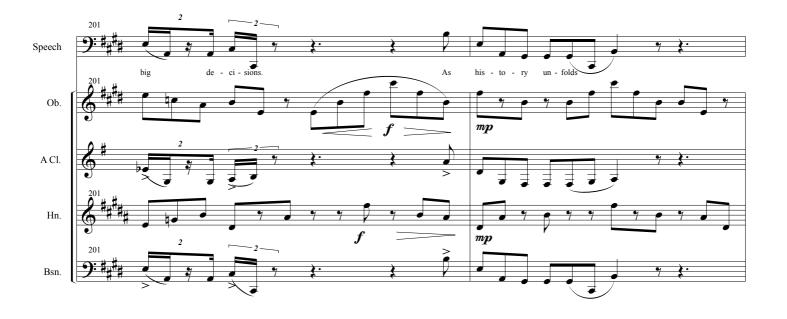


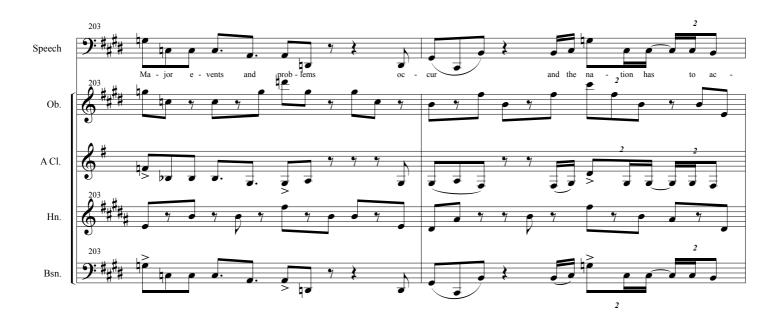






















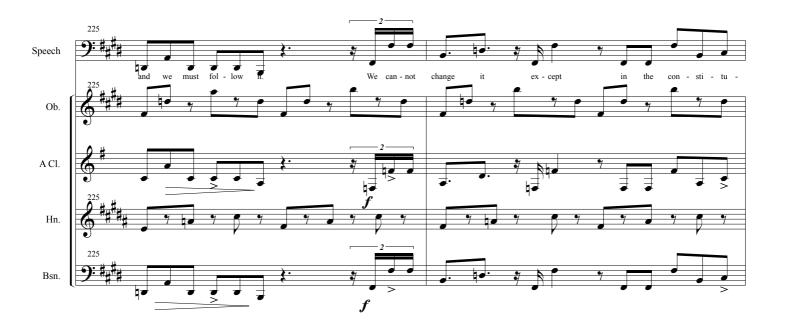




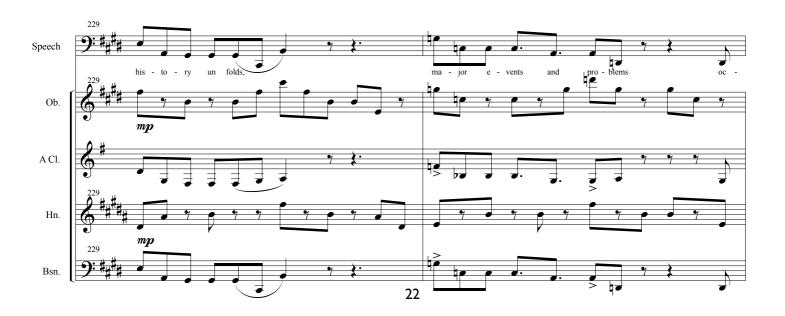


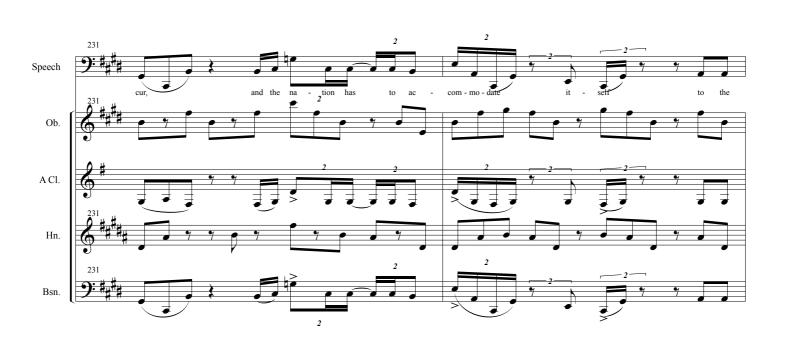
















2. Kerr's Cur















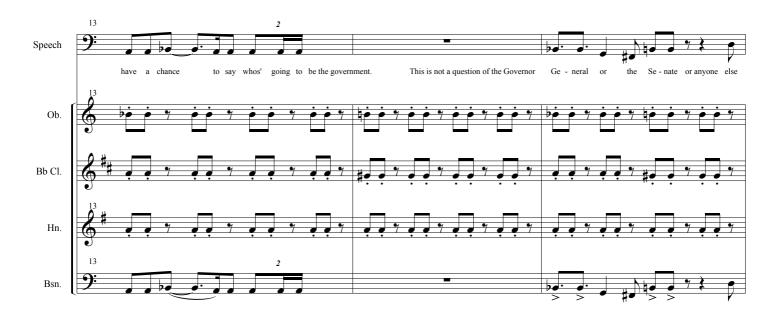




3. Lopping Heads





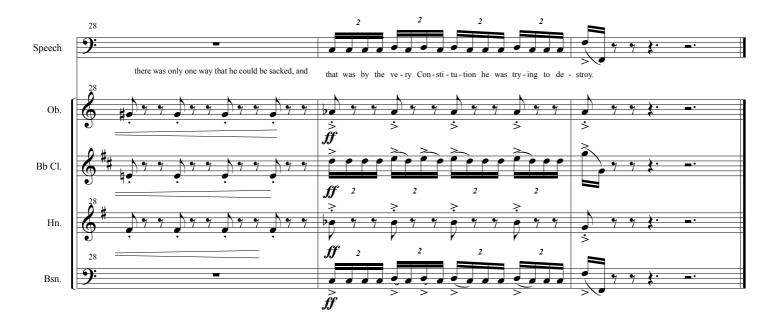












4. Men that we can trust













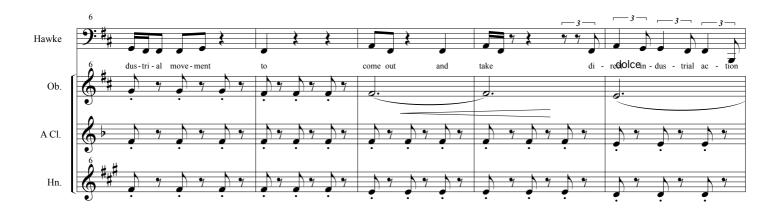


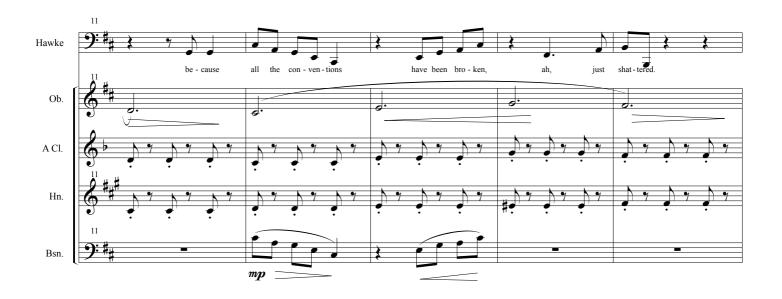




5. Remembrance Day





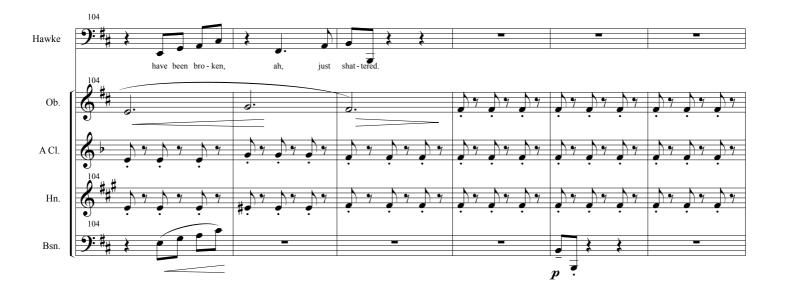


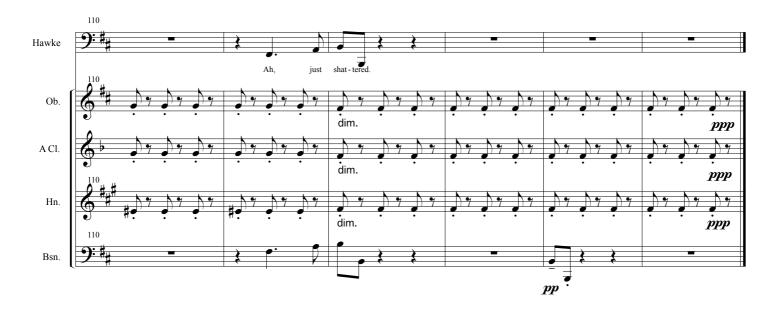












6. Fair Play





